

OPINION 2374 (Case 3599)***Coluber irregularis* Leach in Bowdich, 1819 (currently *Philothamnus irregularis*; Reptilia, Squamata): name conserved**

Abstract. Under the plenary power the Commission has conserved the specific name *Coluber irregularis* Leach in Bowdich, 1819 (currently *Philothamnus irregularis*) for the African northern green bush snake placed on the Official List by a ruling in Opinion 328, by ruling that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Coluber irregularis* Bechstein, 1802 (currently *Boiga irregularis*), used for the brown tree snake, known from Indonesia, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Melanesia and Guam.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Squamata; COLUBRIDAE; *Coluber*; *Philothamnus irregularis*; *Boiga irregularis*; green bush snake; brown tree snake; Africa; Indonesia; Australia; Papua New Guinea; Melanesia.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power the Commission has ruled that the specific name *Coluber irregularis* Leach in Bowdich, 1819 is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Coluber irregularis* Bechstein, 1802.
- (2) The entry on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology for the specific name *irregularis* Leach in Bowdich, 1819, as published in the binomen *Coluber irregularis*, is hereby emended to record that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Coluber irregularis* Bechstein, 1802.

History of Case 3599

An application to conserve the specific name *Coluber irregularis* Leach in Bowdich, 1819 (currently *Philothamnus irregularis*) for the African northern green bush snake by ruling that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Coluber irregularis* Bechstein, 1802 (currently *Boiga irregularis*), used for the brown tree snake, known from Indonesia, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Melanesia and Guam, was received from Danny Meirte (*Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium*) on 10 July 2012. After correspondence the Case was published in *BZN 70*: 89–98 (June 2013). The title, abstract and keywords of the Case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this Case. The Case was sent for vote on 1 March 2015. A greater than two-thirds majority of Commissioners voted FOR the Case (24 For, 0 Against).

Decision of the Commission

At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2015 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 24: Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Ng, Pape, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – none.

Pyle was on leave of absence.

Original references

The following is the original reference to the entry on the Official List emended by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Coluber, irregularis, Leach in Bowdich, 1819, *Mission from Cape Coast Castle to Ashantee*.
John Murray, London, p. 494.